CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Anne of Green Gables

L. M. Montgomery · *1908 · original English text*

An orphan with red hair and a great deal of imagination arrives at Green Gables by mistake: the Cuthberts had wanted a boy. Anne stays, talks, errs, loves, and grows. The book's joy is not that she never makes mistakes, but that tomorrow can be a new day, and duty can be chosen when the brook meets the river.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Can a talkative, mistake-prone child with "scope for the imagination" become a faithful daughter of Green Gables, and what does she do when a real grief asks her to put her own plans down?

"Marilla, isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?"

Anne Shirley · After a day of errors, late in her girlhood at Green Gables

Matthew sees that Anne belongs at Green Gables before Marilla does. School, kindred spirits, and a long string of scrapes teach her; Marilla's love is slower and as deep. At the end Matthew dies, and Anne gives up the Avery scholarship to stay with Marilla. Imagination had been her shelter; it becomes a way to keep faith with a home.

KEY CHARACTERS

Anne Shirley
Orphan, talker, and student; she makes mistakes and will not let tomorrow be only a dread.

Marilla Cuthbert
Severe, just, and slow to show love; Green Gables is kept by her sense and, at last, her heart.

Matthew Cuthbert
Shy and kind; he wanted a boy and became the first to claim Anne.

Diana Barry
Anne's bosom friend and kindred spirit, with a quieter home and a loyal heart.

Gilbert Blythe
The school rival who teases her once and waits years for friendship.

Mrs. Rachel Lynde
The neighbor who sees everything and must be apologized to; not cruel, but sharp.

Miss Stacy
The teacher who trains Anne's mind without crushing her imagination.

A NEW DAY

> *"Marilla, isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?"*
>
> **Anne Shirley** · Late at Green Gables

> *"you can nearly always enjoy things if you make up your mind firmly that you will"*
>
> **Anne Shirley** · On the drive from the station

Grades 5–8
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Mrs. Rachel Lynde Is Surprised

CHAPTERS I–VIII

Matthew brings home a girl instead of a boy. Anne talks all the way from the station; Marilla means to send her back, then cannot.

- The Cuthberts had asked the asylum for a boy to help on the farm.
- Anne names the Avenue "the White Way of Delight" and Barry's pond "the Lake of Shining Waters."
- She says her prayers awkwardly, then stays; Marilla begins the bringing-up.

> *"scope for the imagination"*
>
> **Anne Shirley** · Early chapters, a favorite phrase of Anne's

02

Kindred Spirits and Scrapes

CHAPTERS IX–XVIII

Anne finds Diana Barry, makes a mortal enemy of Mrs. Lynde and then apologizes, and stumbles through cake, medicine, and a broken slate.

- Anne's temper flares when Mrs. Lynde calls her plain and carroty; apology costs her pride.
- Diana is her first kindred spirit; a currant-wine mistake nearly ends the friendship.
- She saves a child and begins to be something more than the girl who talks.

> *"you can nearly always enjoy things if you make up your mind firmly that you will"*
>
> **Anne Shirley** · Early at Green Gables, on the way from the station

03

School, Stories, and Puffed Sleeves

CHAPTERS XIX–XXIX

Gilbert Blythe teases her about her hair; Anne vows not to forgive him. Concerts, a story club, and a lily-maid adventure mark her growing up.

- She breaks a slate over Gilbert's head and will not be "plain and sensible all by herself."
- Matthew, quietly, gets her the puffed sleeves Marilla would not make.
- The lily-maid raft sinks; Gilbert helps her, and she still will not be friends.

04

The Queen's Class

CHAPTERS XXX–XXXVI

Anne studies for the Queen's entrance, teaches, and does well. The brook and the river meet: she is no longer only a child of scrapes.

- Miss Stacy's teaching gives her discipline to match her imagination.
- She and Gilbert are rivals at the top of the pass list.
- The Hotel concert and the winter at Queen's show what she can do away from home.

05

The Bend in the Road

CHAPTERS XXXVII–XXXVIII

Matthew dies. Marilla's eyes fail, and Green Gables may have to be given up. Anne turns down the scholarship and stays.

- Matthew's last pride had been in Anne; the shock of his death is sudden.
- Gilbert, at last forgiven, offers help that makes a way for her to stay and still study.
- The close is not triumph only; it is a chosen road, narrower and faithful.

Home · Imagination · Repentance · Duty and Love · Growing Up

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 5–8

1. The hosted text is the original English of Project Gutenberg #45.
2. The "new day" line is exactly: "Marilla, isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?" It is not "a fresh new day" or other later wordings.
3. "Kindred spirit" is Anne's own phrase; Marilla dryly calls them "queer enough."
4. The book is full of small scrapes; the last movement is not another scrape but a death and a chosen duty.
5. Anne's talk of "scope for the imagination" should not be read as a license to lie; the story itself corrects her when imagination harms others.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #45, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/anne-of-green-gables/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.